

Subject: Beryllium Lymphocyte Proliferation Test Basic Ordering Agreements

For the past five years, the Integrated Contract Procurement Team (ICPT) has been issuing purchase agreements for goods and services commonly used by the Department of Energy (DOE). Comprised of procurement officials, the team acts as a single purchaser to obtain best prices while eliminating procurement duplication.

Recently, the ICPT issued four Basic Ordering Agreements (BOAs) for the diagnostic test that forms an important part of the Department's chronic beryllium disease medical surveillance program. Under federal regulation 10 CFR 850, approximately 24 organizations are required to offer beryllium lymphocyte proliferation tests (BeLPTs) to their employees who currently or formerly worked with beryllium.

The BOAs, all of the successful bidders are well known to DOE, can be viewed at <http://www.hanford.gov/pmm/icpt/icptagreements.html>. The participating laboratories are: Cleveland Clinic, National Jewish Hospital, University of Pennsylvania Hospital, and Specialty Laboratories. BOA terms and conditions are exclusive to DOE and represent an alternative way of obtaining their services. The Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) did not participate in this agreement due to its existing contract with the DOE. ORISE continues to provide BeLPT services to DOE and DOE contractors through work authorizations and memorandum purchase agreements.

The BOAs are expected to benefit organizations with test quantities that do not result in a volume discount. Organizations with substantial test numbers may also find BOA prices less expensive than their current arrangements.

In addition to lower cost, the BOAs reference the revised Beryllium Lymphocyte Proliferation Test protocol, DOE-SPEC-1142, issued in April 2001. A copy can be obtained at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/>. To find this document, click on approved standards then on the 1000-1999 number range then scroll down to SPEC-1142.

In addition to changes that have evolved since its original 1992 publication, the revised specification contains newly developed improvements such as a standardized:

1. Calculation that minimizes the influence of culture media lot variation in determining the normal versus abnormal cut-point.
2. Reporting format, which includes additional information helpful in interpreting borderline results.

Other BOA benefits include an on-site quality audit to ensure that each laboratory meets predetermined administrative and technical criteria and free shipping mailers, a convenient feature.

The Office of Health Programs believes that the new purchase agreements offer significant benefits and encourage consideration of their use as part of a site's BeLPT surveillance program.

To ensure confidentiality of the negotiated prices, they are not Web-posted. To obtain this information, there is some variation, or to learn how to use a BOA call Dawn Moore at (803) 952-6082 or Janette Roberts at (803) 952-6080. Questions about the technical protocol should be directed to John McInerney, M.D., at (303) 966-8377 or Paul Wambach at (301) 903-7373. For questions about ORISE BeLPT services, call Donna Cragle, Ph.D., at (865)-576-2866.